

**South Dakota National Guard
Public Affairs Office
2823 West Main St.
Rapid City, S.D. 57702**

**Phone 605-737-6721
E-mail PAO@sd.ngb.army.mil**

**May 13, 2008
PAO 05-13-08**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Guard supports communities in aftermath of winter storm

RAPID CITY, S.D. – Members of the South Dakota Army National Guard were called up to provide support to communities throughout the Harding County area in the aftermath of a winter storm that plummeted the region with snow and wind on Friday, May 2, knocking down power lines and poles causing intermittent power outages.

Placed on state active duty orders, 27 members of the National Guard were activated to provide assistance to Grand Electric of Bison to restore electrical power. The Guard provided dozers, HEMMTT wreckers, M916A2 semi-trucks with trailers and several Palletized Load System trucks to help haul away broken poles and deliver new ones, plow snow to gain access to areas, and recover stuck vehicles operating in the region.

Unconfirmed reports of four feet of snow fell in the Harding County region and the far northwest corner of the state according to the state Department of Public Safety.

Task Force 881 in Sturgis took the lead in coordinating personnel and equipment from the 200th Engineer Company from Pierre, Mobridge and Chamberlain, and the 842nd Engineer Company from Spearfish, Sturgis, Belle Fourche and Lemmon. The task force responded to the call that came from the SDNG Joint Operations Center in Rapid City that morning.

Several Guard members remain on state active duty orders to assist in recovery operations and expect to be released by Thursday, May 15.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Maj. Orson Ward at (605) 737-6721, cell (605) 431-8753.